

**Wakkerstroom Natural Heritage  
Association**



**Minutes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting held at  
11h00 on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at the Wetlands  
Country House and Sheds**

**1. Welcome and apologies**

Rupert Lawlor opened the meeting and welcomed all. He thanked Malcolm and Linda Warner, Philip and Rita for hosting the AGM. Special mention of Angus and Cara Burns (guest speaker), Wendy Watson (chair of WTA) and Jacques Breytenbach (General Manager: Kangra Coal)

**2. PRESENT AS PER ATTENDANCE REGISTER**

A quorum was present and proxies and apologies noted.

**3. Confirmation of the previous AGM minutes**

Minutes from AGM 8<sup>th</sup> December 2012 held at Wetlands Country House and Sheds were approved by the committee as a true reflection prior to the AGM. Proposed by Wendy Watson (WW) and seconded by Sean Pyott (SP).

**4. Matter arising from minutes**

Nil arising from the minutes

**5. Chairman's report**

**HELP OUR NATURAL HERITAGE**

***"To engage in the conservation, rehabilitation and protection of the natural environment in the  
Wakkerstroom area."***

**Achievements**

The Wakkerstroom Protected Environment Management Committee: (WPEMC) has worked tirelessly to complete the Terms of Reference as well as the broad Management Plan. It is envisaged that the next stage would be acceptance by MTPA of final document. Thereafter, presentations will be to local Council, interested parties and finally the Gazetting of Protected Environmental application.

Ongoing relationship with SEME Fire Protection Association and through Working on Fire to have own dedicated fire team here in Wakkerstroom. (2014)

We continue to attend on your behalf various meetings that do challenge the survival of our environment, which could have impact on our roads, pollution of water table and underground water levels: Martins Dam (Uthaka Game Bird and Nature project) / Coal Bed Methane exploration/ Underground mining / SEME Council on village Dump and Stop signs /Cell C etc

The rebuilding of new Telkom walkway and bridge, with signage to be finalized shortly.

The ongoing time and effort to maintain the WOW and Clive Beck Memorial hides, general maintenance, rubbish removal, improvements and related activities within the area. Where finances are available have done repairs to fences in and around Wetlands. This fencing issue and grazing within the Wetlands is a major challenge, financially and for the environment.

Our newsletters continue to be very informative and the positive feedback and suggestions are certainly welcomed. The newsletter gives members updated progress on projects, sponsorship, and training and did cover issues related to fire protection around each property. It does still worry one that few residents are aware of when and when not to burn and don't have suitable equipment.

The financial report will be presented by our Treasurer.

#### Major Projects for 2014:

1. Evaluation on building of new picnic area, near to walkway and cattle grid. This could now possible due to funding from Kangra Coal ( Mrs. Beck introduction )
2. Way forward on Protected Environment Application.
3. Painting of Paul Kruger Bridge.
4. Upgrading of signage.
5. Evaluation of Crowned Crane sculpture project, location and funding.
6. Capital fundraising (Fencing of Wetlands, new projects and environmental sustainability.)

Once again I would like to thank Sean, Graham, Kristi, Andre and Dianna for their willingness to put in the hours thus ensuring that our projects and daily tasks are completed. To Vusi and the work he does for youth soccer and the community.

WNHA needs to find suitable representatives from the community. Work with Farmer Association who are all interested in the protection of our environment. I have been privilege to serve as your Chairman for the since 2009 (five years) and will not be eligible to serve another term. We do need new members to join this committee to continue with the opportunities and challenges that will face WNHA in the year ahead.

*Rupert Lawlor. Chairman WNHA (December 2013)*

Angus Burns suggested that we look at using old mining cabling for fencing – stands are cemented into the ground and cables are welded on. This prevents much replacement of fencing due to it being cut. This however does pose a problem with fighting fires.

## **6. Finances**

The financial report was presented by Sean Pyott. Hard copies are available for 2014 budget.

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Membership numbers declined during the financial from 72 to 59. Subscriptions from membership dropped from R14 400 in the 2012 year to R12 140 in 2013, a decrease of 16%. Donations of R1040 were received from members, in excess of their membership fees. Income from grazing fees came in at R3 080 for the year. The Association received significant donations for projects during the year. R55 000 was received from the Telkom Foundation and a donation that is valued at R35 000 was received from Working for Wetlands. Overall income, taken before these donations, decreased by 31% to R21 211 in 2013.

Expenditure increased by 10% for the year to R26 017. The increase in expenditure was due mainly to costs associated with repairing the walkway at the vlei that was destroyed in the fire last year. An interim arrangement, which was paid for out of the Association's funds, was made after the fire. The build of the permanent new walkway was financed from the donation from the Telkom Foundation.

During the year the WNHA successfully engaged with Working for Wetlands to install new fencing at areas around the vlei. This new fencing has been valued at R35 000.

The balance sheet remains in a healthy state. Retained funds decreased this year to R82 781 from R87 587. Cash in the bank increased to R83 423 and stock of promotional clothing was valued at R7 203

Thank you to Janet Rowse's company, Beancounters, for the review and preparation of the annual financial statements. Janet offers her services at no cost to the Association.

The operational budget for the 2014 year has been formulated based on routine on-going expenditure commitments. These will amount to R22 541 for the year. Based on this and assuming that membership stays static the outgoing committee proposes that annual membership subscriptions increase slightly on the 2013 year to R220 per member. Income from membership subscriptions, grazing fees, bank interest and the profit generated from the sale of clothing is budgeted to produce an income of R23 760, resulting in a budgeted surplus of R1 219 for the year.

Other than for routine maintenance, there is no provision made for special projects in the budget. These will be funded in accordance with additional donations received during the year. A R55 000 donation has already been received by the Association in the new year from Kangra Coal.

## **7. Appointment of auditor**

Janet Rowse from Beancounters Accounting and Bookkeeping Services cc was appointed as the auditor for the 2013/14 financial year.

## **8. Presentations**

- Angus Burns gave a wonderful and enlightening presentation covering various achievements, legislation and involvements in our local environ – Challenges to our Environment.

## 9. Election of office bearers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Nominated by</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Chairperson	Sean Pyott	Norman Dennet	Sean would prefer to stay on as Treasurer. This matter to be reviewed by the committee at the first meeting in 2014. Hence at this stage Sean will act as interim Chair.
Secretary	Daphne Pyott	Sean Pyott	Nil
Treasurer	Sean Pyott	Rupert Lawlor	Nil

- 4 members are required, as per the constitution, for the executive committee. Nominate K. Garland, to be reviewed at next meeting
- Co-option approved for Graham Mellor, Kristi Garland , Rupert Lawlor and Vusi Sibiyi to the committee
- Would like to thank all those who served on the 2012/2013 committee for their input.

## 10. Closure

Meeting was adjourned at 12h20 with thanks to Wetlands Country House and Sheds and Angus Burns for his presentation.

*To engage in the conservation, rehabilitation and protection of the natural environment in the Wakkerstroom area*